species has not been recorded in this area (Benson and Irwin in press) but it is much subject to irruptions during which breeding or attempted breeding may take place outside the normal range of the species.

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Partial albinism in the Chestnut-collared Swift in Trinidad

by Charles T. Collins

Received 19th May, 1967

The occurrence of albinism has been documented for a wide variety of avian taxa. Within the Apodidae, partial albinism has been recorded for some species of swifts in the genera *Apus*, *Chaetura*, and *Cypseloides* (Sage, 1963; Gross, 1965; Eisenmann and Lehmann, 1962). During the course of several years field work on swifts in Trinidad, West Indies, I have noticed several cases of partial albinism in the Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, and the Chestnut-collared Swift, *Cypseloides rutilus*. In three cases involving the latter species the birds were banded, released, and recaptured at later dates. It is the observations of the same birds, made over several years, which seem noteworthy.

The three birds involved, all adult females, were captured at a night roost in a rocky gorge along the Arima River near the head of Arima Valley, Trinidad. In each case the birds were weighed and examined in detail for any signs of moult. This information was gathered as part of a wider study of the biology of swifts in Trinidad (Collins, MS.) and was supported by research grants from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History.

In the first case, a bird (No. 67–39243) was captured and banded on 23rd October 1964. On that date it had seven white feathers near the vent and scattered among the under tail-coverts, three or four more on the rump, one on each side of the forehead near the base of the mandible, and one lone feather just in front of the right eye. This bird was recaptured on 28th November 1966 and 26th April 1967. On both of these occasions the white feather in front of the eye was not present while on the other hand there was an increase in the number of white feathers on the rump and underparts, and six to eight additional white feathers on the flanks. The pattern of occurrence of these albinistic feathers was not symmetrical.

The second case also involved a bird which was captured and banded on

23rd October 1964 (No. 67–39246). It was subsequently recaptured on 25th October and 28th November 1966. On all three of these occasions detailed notes were taken on its plumage and no albinistic feathers were observed. It was again recaptured on 26th April 1967 at which time it had 1–2 white feathers in front of each eye and a single white feather near the right ear.

In the third case, a single white feather was noted on the upper breast of a bird recaptured on 25th October 1966 which had not been present when this bird (No. 67–39254) was first captured and banded on 6th November 1964.

Although a nearly complete albino of a species of *Chaetura* was recently observed in Trinidad by R. P. ffrench (pers. comm.), partial albinism in swifts seems generally to involve only a few scattered feathers. Spontaneous occurrences of albinism and increases in the amount of albinism with increasing age, such as noted here, have both been previously reported for several species of passerine birds particularly among the Turdinae. Although the causes of such partial albinism are still incompletely known, it does not seem likely, in the cases reported here, that it was due to injury or disease as seems to have been true for some other birds (Sage, 1962; Gross, 1965).

I am indebted to Mrs. H. Newcomb Wright of Spring Hill Estate, Arima Valley, Trinidad, for her hospitality and permission to study the swifts nesting there, and to Juan Hernandez, Rudal Ramlal, and Balmakoon Singh for valuable field assistance.

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The original name of the Black-headed Canary *Serinus alario* (Linnaeus)

by R. K. BROOKE

Received 20th May, 1967

While examining the arrangement of seedeaters in the 10th edition of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* Tomus I (1758) I came across *Emberiza alario* on page 179 described as "capite pectoreque atro, abdomine albo, aliis rubris. *Habitat ad* Caput bonae Spei." and based on the Passer capensis of E. Albin's *A supplement to the natural history of birds* III: 63 (1740). This name is not alluded to in White *A revised check list of African flycatchers, tits, tree creepers, sunbirds, white-eyes, honey eaters, buntings, finches, weavers and waxbills* (1963) or in any other recent book dealing with the south African avifauna. There are two possible explanations of this position: the name is indeterminate or it has been overlooked. The latter is in fact the case and probably arises from the old English custom of starting binomial nonenclature from Linnaeus' twelfth edition. The original reference is given in White (*op. cit.*) as *Fringilla alario* Linnaeus *Syst. Nat.* ed. 12, I, p. 319 (1766). This is a slightly longer entry than in the tenth edition: the description is somewhat fuller and Brisson is alluded to as well as Albin. I am obliged to C. W. Benson for examining the twelfth